

Edward Livingston to Andrew Jackson, December 25, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EDWARD LIVINGSTON TO JACKSON.

New Orleans, December 25, 1814.

Dr Genl. Since I have heard of the movement of the Enemy towards the wood I have sent for some persons who know the Bayou Bienvenu very [well] to examine whether they may not intend to go down the Bayou and gain our rear by means of the Canal of Piernas or Dupré¹ both of them leading to the Bayou Bienvenu and between us and the town. Mr. Sanviret a very intelligent man long Concerned in the contraband trade tells me it is very possible, as the banks of the canal may be marched on within half pistol shot of the Bayou. Lafite also thinks it possible but not probable, with a very enterprising Enemy however these terms ought to be for our Government synonymous. Lafite thinks our line to afford a complete protection ought to be extended *thro* the first wood, to the cypress swamp and the canal Extended that Distance as they may otherwise turn our left. It being plain that the movement to the wood must be intended for one of these two purposes I have thought proper to give you this Information. Lafite says the wood may easily be marched thro all the Distance to the cypress swamp which is nearly impracticable and affords as good a point of support on the left as the river on the right.

1 The Piernas and Dupré canals were respectively one and two miles behind Jackson's first line of defense.

“ *Six o clock.* ” a citizen has just called to let me know that a Mullatto man declared he had seen the English this afternoon in Mde. Piernas' Bayou. This is probably our Picket that he

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has seen I have Endeavoured but without Effect to find out the Mullatto; tho his tale is not probable yet I thought it worth communicating to you.

I am very respectfully

It is said the Enemies whole force has disappeared from before Chef Menteur and sailed up the Bayou Bienvenu, probably to unite with the main army and make a bold push on our lines